

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01

COME-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAJ-01 EURE-00 /093 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2706

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, ELAB, PINT, UK

SUBJECT: MINERS TURN BACK LEFT WINGERS AS TUC SEARCH FOR
NEW WAGES FORMULA GOES ON

REF: LONDON 10351

BEGIN SUMMARY: A MAJOR IMPEDIMENT TO THE TUC'S ELEVENTH-
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HOOR SEARCH FOR A VOLUNTARY WAGES FORMULA WAS AVOIDED

WHEN THE NATIONAL UNION OF MINERS TOOK THE TEETH OUT OF A LEFT-WING RESOLUTION CALLING FOR 100 POUNDS A WEEK MINERS' PAY. END SUMMARY.

1. LAWRENCE DALY, NUM GENERAL SECRETARY, RETURNED LAST NIGHT, JULY 8, FROM SCARBOROUGH, WHERE THE NUM IS HOLDING ITS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CRUCIAL DEBATE OF THE TUC GENERAL COUNCIL TODAY (ON THE EVE OF THE EXPECTED PUBLICATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S WAGE-PRICE WHITE PAPER).

2. THE NUM HAD BEEN FACED EARLIER WITH A RESOLUTION PUT FORWARD BY ARTHUR SCARGILL, A YOUNG NUM LEFT WINGER, AND HIS YORKSHIRE MINERS, CALLING ON THE NUM TO "DEMAND" IN ITS AUTUMN WAGE NEGOTIATION 100 POUNDS A WEEK FOR MINERS AT THE COAL FACE AND, "IN THE EVENT OF AN UNSATISFACTORY RESPONSE FROM THE NATIONAL COAL BOARD," COMMITTING THE NUM EXECUTIVE TO CONSULT MEMBERS "WITH A VIEW TO TAKING VARIOUS FORMS OF INDUSTRIAL ACTION."

3. BUT MODERATE OPPOSITION TO THIS HARSH RESOLUTION -- WHICH WOULD HAVE TIED THE HANDS OF THE NUM IN NEGOTIATIONS -- FORCED SCARGILL TO BOW TO A CRITICALLY SOFTER VERSION. THE NUM CONFERENCE UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED TO SUBSTITUTE IN AN ALTERNATE RESOLUTION THE WORD "SEEK" FOR "DEMAND" (A 100 POUNDS A WEEK WAGE) AND TO REMOVE THE EXPLICIT THREAT OF "INDUSTRIAL ACTION."

4. ALTHOUGH THE SOFTER RESOLUTION HAD BEEN AGREED TO IN BEHIND-THE-SCENES SESSIONS, THE BITTERNESS OF THE BATTLE CONTINUED TO MANIFEST ITSELF ON THE CONFERENCE FLOOR, WITH SCARGILL INSISTING ON INTERPRETING EVEN THE NEW RESOLUTION AS A COMMITMENT BY THE NUM TO GO FOR 100 POUNDS A WEEK THIS AUTUMN, AND JOE GORMLEY, NUM PRESIDENT, AND DALY, AMONG OTHERS, MAINTAINING THAT 100 POUNDS A WEEK WAS AN OBJECTIVE AND NOT AN IRONCLAD CONDITION FOR COAL INDUSTRY PEACE NEXT YEAR. THESE DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RETURN TO PLAGUE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE NUM AND THE NCB THIS AUTUMN, BUT AT LEAST THEY WILL NOT DESTROY THE TUC'S CURRENT YEOMAN EFFORTS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DELIVER A VOLUNTARY WAGE RESTRAINT FORMULA TO THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER AND, OF COURSE, PRIME MINISTER WILSON (WHOSE SPEECH TO THE NUM EARLIER THIS WEEK OBVIOUSLY HAD A VERY IMPORTANT IMPACT).

RICHARDSON

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